

within the Department of Energy (DOE). The Secretary has delegated to the Board's Chair the appropriate authorities necessary for the Board to maintain its separate operations and decisional independence.

(b) The Board's primary function is to hear and decide appeals from final decisions of DOE contracting officers on claims pursuant to the Contract Disputes Act of 1978 (CDA), 41 U.S.C. 601 *et seq.* The Board's Rules of Practice for these appeals are set forth in subpart A of this part. Rules relating to recovery of attorney fees and other expenses under the Equal Access to Justice Act are set forth in subpart C of this part.

(c) In addition to its functions under the CDA, the Secretary in Delegation Order 0204-162 has authorized the Board to:

(1) Adjudicate appeals from agency contracting officers' decisions not taken pursuant to the CDA (non-CDA disputes) under the Rules of Practice set forth in subpart A of this part;

(2) Perform other quasi-judicial functions that are consistent with the Board members' duties under the CDA as directed by the Secretary;

(3) Serve as the Energy Financial Assistance Appeals Board to hear and decide certain appeals by the Department's financial assistance recipients as provided in 10 CFR 600.22, under Rules of Procedure set forth in 10 CFR part 1024;

(4) Serve as the Energy Invention Licensing Appeals Board to hear and decide appeals from license terminations, denials of license applications and petitions by third-parties for license terminations, as provided in 10 CFR part 781, under Rules of Practice set forth in subpart A of this part, modified by the Board as determined to be necessary and appropriate with advance notice to the parties; and

(5) Serve as the Energy Patent Compensation Board to hear and decide, as provided in 10 CFR part 780, certain applications and petitions filed under authority provided by the Atomic Energy Act of 1954, ch. 1073, 68 Stat. 919 (1954), and the Invention Secrecy Act, 35 U.S.C. 181-188, including:

(i) Whether a patent is affected with the public interest;

(ii) Whether a license to a patent affected by the public interest should be granted and equitable terms therefor; and

(iii) Whether there should be allotment of royalties, award, or compensation to a party contributing to the making of certain categories of inventions or discoveries, or an owner of a patent within certain categories, under Rules of Practice set forth in subpart A of this part, modified by the Board as determined to be necessary and appropriate, with advance notice to the parties.

(d) The Board provides alternative disputes resolution neutral services and facilities, as agreed between the parties and the Board, for:

(1) Disputes related to the Department's prime contracts and to financial assistance awards made by the Department.

(2) Disputes related to contracts between the Department's cost-reimbursement contractors, including Management and Operating Contractors (M&Os) and Environmental Remediation Contractors (ERMCs), and their subcontractors. Additionally, with the consent of both the responsible prime DOE cost-reimbursement contractor and the cognizant DOE Contracting Officer, the Board may provide neutral services and facilities for disputes under second tier subcontracts where the costs of litigating the dispute might be ultimately charged to the DOE as allowable costs through the prime contract.

(3) Other matters involving DOE procurement and financial assistance, as appropriate.

§ 1023.2 Organization and location of the Board.

(a) *Location of the Board.* (1) The Board's offices are located at, and hand and commercial parcel deliveries should be made to: Board of Contract Appeals, U.S. Department of Energy, 950 L'Enfant Plaza, SW., Suite 810, Washington, DC 20024.

(2) The Board's mailing address is as follows. The entire nine digit ZIP code should be used to avoid delay: Board of Contract Appeals, U.S. Department of Energy, HG-50, Building 950, Washington, DC 20585-0116.

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(3) The Board's telephone numbers are (202) 426-9316 (voice) and (202) 426-0215 (facsimile).

(b) *Organization of the Board.* As required by the CDA, the Board consists of a Chair, a Vice Chair, and at least one other member. Members are designated Administrative Judges. The Chair is designated Chief Administrative Judge and the Vice Chair, Deputy Chief Administrative Judge.

§ 1023.3 Principles of general applicability.

(a) *Adjudicatory functions.* The following principles shall apply to all adjudicatory activities whether pursuant to the authority of the CDA, authority delegated under this part, or authority of other laws, rules, or directives.

(1) The Board shall hear and decide each case independently, fairly, and impartially.

(2) Decisions shall be based exclusively upon the record established in each case. Written or oral communication with the Board by or for one party is not permitted without participation or notice to other parties. Except as provided by law, no person or agency, directly or indirectly involved in a matter before the Board, may submit off the record to the Board or the Board's staff any evidence, explanation, analysis, or advice (whether written or oral) regarding any matter at issue in an appeal, nor shall any member of the Board or of the Board's staff accept or consider ex parte communications from any person. This provision does not apply to consultation among Board members or staff or to other persons acting under authority expressly granted by the Board with notice to parties. Nor does it apply to communications concerning the Board's administrative functions or procedures, including ADR.

(3) Decisions of the Board shall be final agency decisions and shall not be subject to administrative appeal or administrative review.

(b) *Alternative Dispute Resolution (ADR) Functions.* (1) Board judges and personnel shall perform ADR related functions impartially, with procedural fairness, and with integrity and diligence.

(2) Ex parte communications with Board staff and judges limited to the nature, procedures, and availability of ADR through the Board are permitted and encouraged. Once parties have agreed to engage in ADR and have entered into an ADR agreement accepted by the Board, ex parte communications by Board neutrals, support staff and parties shall be as specified by any applicable agreements or protocols and as is consistent with law, integrity, and fairness.

(3) Board-supplied neutrals and support personnel shall keep ADR matters confidential and comply with any confidentiality requirements of ADR agreements accepted by the Board. Board personnel may not disclose any confidential information unless permitted by the parties or required to do so by law.

§ 1023.4 Authorities.

(a) *Contract Disputes Act Authorities.* The CDA imposes upon the Board the duty, and grants it the powers necessary, to hear and decide, or to otherwise resolve through agreed procedures, appeals from decisions made by agency contracting officers on contractor claims relating to contracts entered into by the DOE or relating to contracts of another agency, as provided in Section 8(d) of the CDA, 41 U.S.C. 607(d). The Board may issue rules of practice or procedure for proceedings pursuant to the CDA. The CDA also imposes upon the Board the duty, and grants it powers necessary, to act upon petitions for orders directing contracting officers to issue decisions on claims relating to such contracts, 41 U.S.C. 605(c)(4). The Board may apply through the Attorney General to an appropriate United States District Court for an order requiring a person, who has failed to obey a subpoena issued by the Board, to produce evidence or to give testimony, or both, 41 U.S.C. 610.

(b) *General Powers and Authorities.* The Board's general powers include, but are not limited to, the powers to:

(1) Manage its cases and docket; issue procedural orders; conduct conferences and hearings; administer oaths; authorize and manage discovery, including depositions and the production of